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Subject: Software Patents

Software, which is essentially mathematical algorithms, should not be patentable. Patenting software algorithms is not very different from patenting words or word usage. Also, instead of promoting innovation, which I believe is one of the core principles behind U.S. patent law, software patents are killing innovation and severely damaging the U.S. software industry. Many, if not most, software patents apply to processes for which there is prior art and/or are obvious to any knowledgeable software developer. Because of the astronomical costs of defending against patent litigation, small software developers are being driven out of business and large developers are spending millions of dollars on unnecessary litigation.

Please end the practice of patenting software.

Thank you.

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